

In what I hope will not become a recurring theme, we experienced some on the worst monsoon damage seen in Tempe on Friday, August 11. Similar to the last message, a summer monsoon storm swooped into Tempe two weeks ago and Mother Nature uprooted dozens of trees throughout Kiwanis Parks and the Benedict Fields. This time her destruction was not limited to trees.

At the Kiwanis Recreation Center, the entire east fence of the tennis courts was damaged and three lights poles were destroyed. Not stopping there, shade structures and tables were also damaged. A big thanks to all involved in the clean up from South Parks and the Kiwanis Center. It's not what we had on schedule for last week and many projects had to be delayed to restore areas to some degree of usability. Remnants can still be found in the west parking lot of Kiwanis where mountains of trees remain to be chipped. Below are just a few



examples of the damage:



Significant Accomplishments

For the first time in several months we have two new faces to celebrate in Parks and Recreation. However, both are not really “new” but promotions for two well respected part-time employees. Both Barrett Brickner and Daniel Becknol have been hired as Groundskeeper I’s, Barrett for South Parks and Daniel for North Parks. They have been truly valuable employees since coming to Tempe and are to be congratulated on becoming full-time employees.



Barrett

Dan

Important Information!

- This Wednesday, August 23, interviews will be conducted to fill the North Parks Supervisor position. Finalist for the positions will be selected and scheduled for an open employees forum. The forum will be held on Thursday, August 24, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Pyle Adult Center, 655 E. Southern. All employees are invited to attend.
- At the August 17 City Council meeting, City Manager Will Manley reported that the non-supervisory employees work group had submitted enough signatures to be recognized as a bargaining unit per the City Charter. This group will replace the Tempe Employees Council and represent all non-supervisory employees in labor negotiations with the City Manager. More information to come!

Current Openings

- **Groundskeeper I/II** – there are currently two vacancies being recruited for, one in North Parks and one at Ken McDonald Golf Course. Both positions close on August 21 and have salary increases based on the new 75th percentile approach to classification and compensation.
- **Sprinkler Systems Maintenance Worker I/II** – this position is being reallocated from North Parks to Diablo Stadium with the retirement of Charlie Perez. The position closes August 21 and there has been a significant change in the salary based on the new 75th percentile approach to classification and compensation.
- **Pest Control Technician** – this position is in North Parks with the retirement of Henry Maez. The position closes August 21 and there has been a significant change in the salary based on the new 75th percentile approach to classification and compensation.

A few reminders!

- School is back in session, drive safe while in Tempe.
- Keep yourself hydrated at all times.
- With the wet weather, be on the watch for mosquito breeding grounds and report any seen immediately.

Mark Richwine, Manager
Tempe Parks and Recreation Department